



# FEMA

## NEWS RELEASE STATE/FEDERAL DISASTER FIELD OFFICE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER



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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Notice of Hazard Mitigation Deadline for Local Jurisdictions, Tribes, and Qualified non-profit Organization.**

EVERETT, WA --Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) asked local and tribal jurisdictions and state agency liaisons to submit letters of intent by Jan. 16, 2004, if they plan to apply for federal hazard mitigation grant money made available by the October flood and storm disaster.

EMD also has encouraged local emergency managers to notify special purpose districts and nonprofit organizations of the hazard mitigation grant letters of intent deadline.

About \$500,000 is expected to be made available for the grants, EMD officials said. President Bush declared a disaster area Nov. 7 for storm and flood damage between Oct. 15 and 23 for Chelan, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Okanogan, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom counties.

Grants will be awarded on the basis of eligibility reviews and competitive rankings. Construction mitigation project grants will focus on where there have been repeated flood disaster losses in the 15-county disaster area. Natural hazard mitigation planning grants will be available statewide to assist ongoing efforts to keep jurisdictions eligible for future mitigation programs.

Grant applications are anticipated to be due April 1, 2004, to EMD.

For additional information, contact Chuck Hagerhjelm, deputy state coordinating officer for the October flood and storm disaster, at (253) 512-7071.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

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Note to Editors: Disaster information is available on FEMA's World Wide Web at <http://www.fema.gov> or the Washington Emergency Management Division at <http://emd.wa.gov>

